

State of Iowa

1960

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

For the Year Ending June 30, 1960

WHAT IS THE IOWA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND?

The Iowa Commission for the Blind is a state agency established to give services to blind persons who live in Iowa. There are two other state programs for the blind--the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School at Vinton, which educates blind children, and Public Assistance for the Blind, administered by the State Department of Social Welfare through the County Welfare Departments.

CAN YOU HELP ME TO LEARN TO DO THINGS AS A BLIND PERSON?

Yes. The staff will help you come to an understanding that blindness need not be as tragic and limiting as most people consider it to be. You will learn of the accomplishments of other blind people throughout the country and of the jobs they are holding. Many totally blind persons are working every day as machinists, lawyers, farmers, factory workers, and even as electricians and scientists. With proper training a blind person can be a successful housewife, school teacher, or almost anything else. It may be that you will need to enter the Orientation and Adjustment Center for intensive training in many techniques. At the Center you will learn how to travel by yourself independently through city traffic or in rural areas. This is done by using the new "long cane" method. Also, you will learn Braille, typing, shopwork, and cooking and sewing techniques. If you cannot enter the Orientation and Adjustment Center, one of our home teachers will call on you in your home and help you learn the techniques that you need. Our job is to help you acquire the alternative techniques that enable you to carry on a normal, independent, and competitive life.

I WANT TO EARN MY OWN LIVING. HOW CAN I DO THIS?

Our program of rehabilitation is designed to help the blind achieve self-support. Our rehabilitation counselors will help you get the training you need and will then assist you in finding a job. One of our major efforts is to try to educate the public to the fact that the blind are not helpless but are simply normal people who cannot see--that is, if they get proper training and if they have an opportunity to work. If, because of age or some other handicap, you are not able to work in competitive employment, perhaps we can give you work through our home industries program.

IF I DON'T HAVE MONEY TO LIVE ON, CAN YOU GIVE IT TO ME?

No, but we can help you contact the proper officials in the Welfare Department.

WHAT OTHER SERVICES CAN THE COMMISSION PROVIDE?

Through our Library we can provide you with a talking book machine, which plays recorded books and magazines, and with both talking books records and Braille books. These are sent through the mail postage free. Or, you can come to the Library in Des Moines, and browse around to do your own reference work. We have reading rooms for both Braille books and talking book records. We will try to help you with any problems which you may have.

ARE THERE PRIVATE GROUPS OR ORGANIZATIONS IN IOWA ENGAGED IN WORK FOR THE BLIND?

Yes. Lions Clubs throughout the state carry on a variety of projects

to assist the blind, as do the Federated Women's Clubs. There are several groups (notably the women of the Jewish Temple Sisterhoods) which transcribe material into Braille and also do tape recordings of books for the blind. Also, the blind themselves have organized into a state-wide association, the Iowa Association of the Blind. This organization, affiliated with the National Federation of the Blind, has local chapters throughout the state. It carries on a program of public education and otherwise attempts to find solutions to the problems which face the blind. We can help you to contact any of these groups and can further inform you of the services they render.

HOW MUCH DOES THIS SERVICE COST ME?

The services of the Iowa Commission for the Blind will cost you nothing. We hope that you will call on us when you need us and that you will tell others about us.

IOWA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND
Central Office
4th and Keosauqua Way
Des Moines 9, Iowa
Telephone: ATlantic 3-0153

DISTRICT OFFICES
730 Higley Building
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Telephone: EMpire 2-7800

326 LaFayette Building
Waterloo, Iowa
Telephone: ADams 4-8517

THE REAL PROBLEM OF BLINDNESS IS NOT THE LOSS OF EYESIGHT. THE REAL PROBLEM IS THE MISUNDERSTANDING AND LACK OF INFORMATION WHICH EXISTS. IF A BLIND PERSON HAS PROPER TRAINING, AND IF HE HAS OPPOTRUNITY, BLINDNESS IS ONLY A PHYSICAL NUISANCE.

November 1, 1960

Honorable Herschel C. Loveless
Governor of the State of Iowa
State House

Dear Governor Loveless:

Complying with the provisions of Chapter 93, Code of Iowa for 1958, the report of the Commission for the Blind for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1960, is herewith submitted.

Very truly yours,
IOWA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND
Kenneth Jernigan, Director

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IOWA STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

For The Year Ending June 30, 1960

Members of Commission

Mrs. Alvin Kirsner (Chairman)	Des Moines
Mr. W. C. Hahle	Sumner
Mr. D. W. Overbeay, Superintendent of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, Ex-officio	Vinton
Mr. Kenneth Jernigan (Director)	Des Moines

SPACE UTILIZATION AND PROGRAM PLANS

for the

ORIENTATION CENTER FOR THE BLIND

At Fourth and Keo in Des Moines

On February 1, 1960, the Commission for the Blind occupied the old YMCA building at Fourth and Keosauqua in Des Moines. The building has six floors and a basement. The best description of the contemplated program can be given by outlining the plans for each floor of the building.

BASEMENT

In the basement there will be shops--for woodworking, metalworking, electrical wiring, and certain phases of automotive mechanics. If a newly blinded person learns that he can operate a power saw with proficiency and do varnishing or painting, it does important things to his evaluation of himself and of his future as a blind person. These shops will largely be prevocational or diagnostic in nature, but for many of the students the courses will carry through to full vocational preparation. Also in the basement the Commission will train blind persons as masseurs. Steam rooms, massage tables, and much of the needed equipment are already on hand and ready for use. The swimming pool (already in operation) will, of course, be an important part of the orientation and adjustment program, for it gives the blind person a realization that he can compete in an active sport. Also, it is used as a part of the physical conditioning program.

FIRST FLOOR

On the first floor blind telephone operators will be trained, as will snack bar and vending operators. The grill, which has always been open to the public, will serve as a training stand. In addition, administrative offices, student recreation lounge, and a small gymnasium will be located on the first floor. The big gymnasium affords an exceptionally good opportunity for travel training. Plans call for construction of simulated street crossings (complete with fire plugs and other obstacles) which will be used in training new students.

Especially when it is snowing, this travel area will be valuable. It gives a controlled environment for beginners, virtually to the point of laboratory perfection.

SECOND FLOOR

On the second floor will be the home industries department, a complete home economics training area, and the large dining room for students. The home economics area will offer an opportunity for complete training in home making skills. There will be a kitchen, a dining room area, a bedroom, a living room, a room for ironing, and a room where sewing and pattern drafting can be taught.

THIRD FLOOR

The third floor will contain rehabilitation offices, classrooms for trainees, conference rooms, and testing rooms.

FOURTH FLOOR

The fourth floor will be entirely taken up with the Braille, talking book, and tape library. We will have reading rooms, listening rooms, library stacks, rooms for recording and for transcribing material into Braille, a room where Braille pages can be shellacked and bound, and a complete setup for handling the mailing of books and records to blind persons all over the state. The Library of Congress has designated the Commission for the Blind as one of its official libraries for Braille books and talking book records, and it is anticipated that more than a thousand pieces of reading material a week will be shipped from the library to blind readers throughout the state. These books and records are sent through the mail without cost either to the state or to the blind borrower.

FIFTH FLOOR

The fifth floor will contain sixteen bedrooms for women trainees and apartments for necessary supervisory staff.

SIXTH FLOOR

The sixth floor will contain sixteen bedrooms for men trainees and apartments for necessary supervisory staff.

Expansion keynoted the program of the Iowa Commission for the Blind in fiscal 1960. Recognizing the exceptional need in the state for greatly improved work for the blind, the 58th General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a two-pronged legislative effort to bring Iowa to the forefront in this previously neglected field. To build in Iowa a complete rehabilitation facility and to provide needed services were the goals of the Legislature. In fiscal 1960 the Commission made every effort to carry out this mandate.

Within the general growth and program development two specific items stand out: (1) the new Orientation and Adjustment Center and (2) the new Library.

ORIENTATION AND ADJUSTMENT CENTER

On November 2, 1959, with only three students and two teachers, orientation and adjustment classes began in one room in the Amos Hiatt Building, adjacent to the Capitol grounds, where the Commission then had its offices. Soon there were five students and, in addition, a waiting list of approximately 125 blind Iowans who were eligible for and wanted training. These were only some of the many hundreds of blind people in the state who are in the employable years and who are not working because of lack of proper training and opportunity.

An orientation and adjustment center provides intensive instruction in many areas and in a proper setting. Without such help a blind adult is likely to spend the rest of his life simply sitting around and doing nothing-- a burden to himself, his family, and his community. Though with good intentions the family will not know how to help him and will tend to overprotect, shelter, and--in fact--discourage him.

When a student first arrives at an orientation center for the blind, he actually sees blind people doing what he thought impossible--blind people traveling downtown to any store, running a drill press or a power saw, cooking, sewing, etc. He soon learns that these activities of daily life require only the proper training. After a few days he begins to do them himself. In such an atmosphere the blind student gains confidence and proficiency through others' and through his own accomplishments. In a few months the blind adult is able to perform the tasks of daily living in a routine way. No longer are such things as going to town, buying groceries, cooking a meal, or driving a nail problems. The first real step toward independence and self-sufficiency has been reached.

At first, in the one room Center, only partial instruction was given. There was no space in the Amos Hiatt Building to do more, nor was there staff to do more. Students took Braille, typing, and personal grooming. They went out to local homes in Des Moines, using borrowed kitchens and utensils for home economics. They became a familiar sight learning travel techniques around the Capitol grounds--rainy weather or fair, snow or no snow.

Then, on February 1, 1960, the Commission for the Blind moved into its new Center at 4th and Keosauqua in Des Moines. For the blind of Iowa the new era had begun in earnest. The months of combined effort and planning on the part of many groups and individuals (the Legislature, the Governor, the members of the Executive Council, the Iowa Association of the Blind, the Lions Clubs of the state, the Jewish Temple Sisterhoods, the Federated Women's Clubs, the P.T.A. of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, and numerous others) began to take shape in visible form. The building has six floors and a full basement.

However, the Commission was able to use only the basement and first two floors until the completion of necessary remodeling. This was true because of fire regulations.

The building had only one stairway going from the basement to the sixth floor. The Fire Marshall required that the Commission enclose this stair well with fire walls and doors on every floor. In addition a new stair well had to be built from the first floor to the sixth floor so that two stairways would come down from the top of the building. Of course, it would also be necessary to enclose the new stair well with fire walls and doors.

These fire regulations were not imposed because the building was being used as a training center for the blind. Any new occupant of the building would have been required to make the same installations. The reason for this is that the YMCA was occupying the building at Fourth and Keo at the time the present fire regulations went into effect. Under a sort of "grandfather clause" they were allowed to continue to use the building with no alterations. Any new tenant, however, would have been required to install the fire doors and make the stair well changes already mentioned.

Additional and somewhat more effective space, however, meant that the Orientation and Adjustment Center could make its program more adequate. By June 30, 1960, there were 15 students, 4 teachers, and some separate classrooms. Necessary courses were added. The curriculum included travel, Braille, typing, personal grooming, physical conditioning, ironing, cooking, sewing, some spelling and grammar, Braille switchboard operation, and a class session in attitudes and techniques. Classes to be added gradually include a shop course in wood and metal work, simple electric wiring, some automotive mechanics, masseur training, and a complete course in home management.

There were some problems in establishing the Center in the new building. Fortunately, all of these will be eliminated when necessary remodeling is completed. It was necessary for students to find outside living quarters and come in on a daily basis for training. This created certain undesirable effects, but it was the best arrangement that could be made until student living quarters were ready for occupancy. Also, shop courses could not be given in the building until alterations were made, space prepared, and equipment acquired. The cooking facilities for home economics instruction were far from adequate. Finally, usable space allowed only 15 students to come to the Center. This situation will be remedied when remodeling and alterations are completed so that the entire building can be used.

Despite the problems mentioned, tremendous progress was made in fiscal 1960. The building at 4th and Keo is ideally located as a training center for the blind. The downtown section affords very nearly perfect conditions for travel training instruction and practice. The building is close to the bus station, train depot, restaurants, and stores. Students have incentive to learn to go places by themselves, and it is possible to plan an infinite variety of problems and situations. In fact, it has become a matter of routine for all downtown Des Moines business men and shoppers to see the students traveling independently and efficiently to their various destinations.

Although the home economics and classroom sections were cramped and inadequate, they were better than the blind had ever had before. In fact, they were the first such facilities that the blind of the state had had at all.

The actual establishment of the Center means much to the blind and to Iowa. After receiving training in the Orientation and Adjustment Center, graduates will move immediately into competitive employment, go to college, return to their home communities as housewives, or go on to receive specific vocational training supervised by the Commission for the Blind for subsequent job placement. In addition to orientation and adjustment training some students will have received at the Center specific vocational instruction (several types will be offered) and will be directly placed in employment. Intensive training at the Orientation and Adjustment Center will result in better and more stable job opportunities for the blind of Iowa.

As the teaching staff is enlarged and the necessary remodeling and equipping carried out, the Center will work toward a maximum enrollment of 35 students at one time or 60 per year. The length of training time will depend on the individual. Some may graduate in three months; others in one year. The average period ought to be about six months.

Students will represent a general cross section of the adult population--some newly blinded, others blind from childhood; some who are recent high school graduates, others who have worked for several years; many on public assistance, some using up their available resources; etc. The purpose of the Center will be to teach the blind individual necessary alternative techniques to carry on in an actual competitive manner and to bring to the student an understanding of the real problems of blindness. With proper training and opportunity a blind person can carry on a normal, competitive life.

The very fact that at the end of fiscal 1960 fifteen students were in attendance at the Center, that the nucleus of a staff of teachers had been assembled, that two students had already successfully graduated, that a spirit of hope and expectation was everywhere present among the blind of the state--these things demonstrate the progress made and point to the direction of the future. When the Center is completely remodeled, equipped, and staffed, it should be the best training facility for the blind anywhere in the nation.

LIBRARY

The early months of the year saw a continuation of the efforts by Iowa senators and representatives in the Congress, by the Iowa Commission for the Blind, and by the blind of the state to bring a library of Braille books and talking book records to Iowa. This state had never had a library for its blind citizens. It had purchased service from the library for the blind at Jacksonville, Illinois; and this service had deteriorated year by year until in 1960 it was so poor that some blind persons simply refused to have anything to do with it, others wrote letter after letter of complaint, and still others merely took what they could get--for there was no other library available to them.

Iowa congressmen were very successful in bringing this matter to attention of the Library of Congress, which supplies both Braille books and talking book records to its regional libraries without charge. Also, the Commission for the Blind began to negotiate with the Library of Congress to see whether service could be improved. In October of 1959 a meeting attended by officials from Iowa, Illinois, and the Library of Congress was held in Chicago. It was decided that Iowa would now have its own library for the blind.

The pertinent details of the Chicago meeting are as follows.

In the past the library for the blind at Jacksonville, Illinois, distributed both talking book records and Braille books to the blind of southern Illinois and also to the blind of Iowa. This would be changed by establishing a new library in Des Moines under the sponsorship of the Commission for the Blind. This library would then distribute both Braille books and talking book records to the blind of Iowa. The Jacksonville library would be limited to the Illinois School for the Blind and near-by readers. Other blind readers in southern Illinois would be served by the existing services of the Chicago Public Library.

The Library of Congress would provide to the Iowa regional Library an initial supply of both Braille books and talking book records with all additional publications as produced, all reader catalogues, and shipping container replacements. This would be done without charge to Iowa. It represents an initial investment of many hundreds of thousands of dollars with a continuing yearly amount supplied by the Library of Congress. Also, because of this investment Iowa has, for the first time in its history, its own Library for the blind giving adequate service.

Service was scheduled to begin July 1, 1960. However, there were several delays in the shipment from Illinois and other centers throughout the Library of Congress system of the Braille books, the talking book records, and the mailing lists of Iowa users. Finally in the latter part of June the materials began arriving.

Temporary shelves made from old lockers were quickly set up. Some shelving was made from wood. Still the Commission was unable to procure enough shelving, and many books were arranged on the floor. To shelve and catalogue 9,000 volumes, to prepare shipping cards from mailing lists, to send out catalogues -- all this had to be done in less than three weeks. Yet, on June 30 over 500 books were ready to be shipped the next day -- the first scheduled day of operation. There is little doubt that the Commission has found a staff to develop an effective and competent library service.

The former gymnasium in the Center building was used to house the library until the 4th floor could be prepared. Lack of space and proper facilities meant that only mail service could be given immediately. More complete library service will be available in the near future.

It should be possible to establish the library in its permanent quarters on the 4th floor sometime around January 1, 1961. At that time it should be one of the best operations of its type in the nation. There will be reading rooms for Braille books and listening rooms for talking book records and tapes where blind persons from anywhere in the state may come to use the library as sighted persons would use a similar facility in their home communities. There will be stack areas where the Library of Congress collection will be stored and also the collection which the prisoners at Fort Madison are transcribing and taping for the Commission. There will be a large work area for packaging and mailing books and records to the blind throughout the state. It is estimated that, when full operation is reached, the Commission will be sending approximately 300 books through the mail each day. By special act of Congress these books for the Blind go through the mails without postage to and from the library. There will also be rooms for teaching Braille transcribing to sighted volunteers, for snellacking and binding Braille pages, and for recording material on tape. Arrangements will be made so that the full resources of the library will be available to the students at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School at Vinton. In other words, a complete library service for the blind of the state is planned -- second to none in the nation.

The building for the Center is, at present, being remodeled. Final contracts for the construction were signed the last week of June, 1960. As indicated at the beginning of this report, the best description of the overall, contemplated program can best be given by outlining the plans for each floor of the building. The contractors estimate that all remodeling work should be completed by March 1, 1961. By July 1, 1961, it should be possible to complete the staff buildup and final equipping to put the Center into full operation in all phases of its activity.

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation of the blind in Iowa is the prime objective of the Commission for the Blind. It is, however, an objective that must be specifically defined, for the word rehabilitation encompasses many concepts today. Simply stated, the definition used by the Commission for the Blind is that rehabilitation is this: rehabilitation means that process ending in the employment of a blind person. It is vocational rehabilitation.

Belief that blind people are normal people who happen not to have sight makes it possible to place blind persons in regular, competitive employment. The two essentials to such employment are public education to erase erroneous notions held by most employers and proper training to give the blind person the necessary skills to carry on as a competitive individual.

Both essentials are carried out by the Commission; however, the Commission for the Blind must bring together its efforts in actual employment. It is one thing to have a well educated public and a well trained group of blind people. It is another to have all employable blind people in Iowa actually working.

The survey conducted by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in 1957 indicated that there were over 800 blind people in Iowa who were capable of employment and who were simply sitting doing nothing -- a burden to themselves and to the entire financial structure and well being of Iowa. In addition to these are those employable persons who become blind every year. In 1956 only 11 blind persons were rehabilitated or placed in employment. Most of these were in substandard employment and required additional support either from the state or from families. During 1959, however, (the first full year after the beginning of the Commission's new program) 26 were employed with only 6 in sheltered employment.

The direction of the program is now unmistakable, for in fiscal 1960 the Commission for the Blind rehabilitated 40 blind Iowans. Of these only 3 were placed in sheltered employment while 37 were placed in competitive employment with average earnings of over \$50.00 per week. These people are self-supporting citizens assisting in the support of their communities and state. Program direction points, as it should, toward more jobs in competitive employment and toward more blind Iowans achieving what ought to be achieved -- the full integration of the blind into society with every blind person realizing the maximum potential of his abilities and talents.

Job placements in 1960 varied as did the individual clients. The new Center had, by June 30, 1960, two graduates. Both were successfully rehabilitated. One of these, in addition to being blind, is partially deaf. She works in a hospital laundry room making the same wages as her sighted fellow workers.

The types of jobs being held by these rehabilitated blind Iowans run the range of employment in the regular life of a community. There were: a construction worker, a laundry worker, a musician, a lawyer, a clerk, a parts

packer, a custodian, a dictophone typist, a masseur, a darkroom technician, a hospital employee, a store owner, a machine operator in an industrial plant, a concession stand operator, and a nurse's aid.

Even though fiscal 1960 was a banner year for Iowa in the rehabilitation of the blind (40 blind people have never before in the history of the state been rehabilitated in a single year), fiscal 1961 promises to be even better. Present indications are that more than 50 blind Iowans should be rehabilitated during the 12 month period. This will be true because of the growing impact of Iowa's new Orientation and Adjustment Center and because of the overall increase in the momentum of the Commission's program. During fiscal 1960 a new branch office was established in Waterloo, and the state was redistricted to allow for better case finding and more adequate service. As the new Orientation and Adjustment Center comes to full operation and the overall program of the Commission levels out into full maturity and co-ordination of effort, rehabilitation of the blind should steadily improve.

VENDING STAND PROGRAM

The Commission helps blind persons to establish concession stands for the vending of food stuffs, tobacco products, magazines, etc. on federal and other property throughout the state. There are currently 11 such concession stands in Iowa under the sponsorship of the Commission.

In its report for fiscal 1959 the Commission for the Blind said, "Fiscal 1960 will be the first complete year the vending stands will operate under the revised system. Initiation of better business procedures, together with up-to-date merchandising techniques now available through the newly organized small business enterprises department, will undoubtedly cause average earnings to rise to a higher and more adequate level." This prediction has proven to be true. Whereas the average monthly earnings for the vending stand operators were \$120.00 for fiscal 1959, they were \$208.00 for fiscal 1960. This is still less than it should be, and increased work will have to be done in the small business enterprise area. However, a good beginning has been made, and the figures for average monthly earnings of operators tell the story as nothing else could.

Fiscal 1961 should see several new vending stands established and a considerable improvement in purchasing and merchandising techniques throughout the system.

HOME TEACHING

During fiscal 1960 the home teaching program of the Commission continued to increase its activities. At the end of the fiscal year there were two home teachers on the staff and plans to add others as soon as possible.

It is the function of the home teacher to visit blind persons in their home for the purpose of giving instruction in a variety of skills and techniques. As the new Orientation & Adjustment Center becomes fully operational, the activities of the home teachers will be ever more closely co-ordinated into the overall program of orientation. Not all persons who become blind can be brought into the Center to receive instruction. The home teachers will serve as field workers for the Commission. They will screen applicants, give preliminary instruction in the home, and do a certain amount of follow-up work when the blind person returns to his community from the Center.

The job of the home teacher includes the teaching of Braille, typing, travel, cooking and sewing techniques, crafts, and the general attitudes. Very often (this will be more and more the case as the Center develops) the home teacher will work with older blind persons who are homebound or beyond the years of competitive employment. The role of the home teacher is an important part in the developing program of the Commission for the Blind.

HOME INDUSTRIES

The home industries program of the Commission is designed to give employment to those, who because of age or some other handicap, are not able to work in competitive employment. At present this department of the Commission consists of a program for rug weavers, towel hemmers, billfold lacers, and mat makers. The home industries manager is continuing to make an active search to develop new areas of manufacturing that will be more likely to allow homebound blind persons to become more nearly self-supporting.

The Federated Womens' Clubs of Iowa assist the Commission by selling towels hemmed by blind women. At present some 70 blind women participate in this project and are able to earn needed and substantial amounts by so doing. The rugs, mats, and billfolds produced in the home industries program are marketed through a private sales corporation known as Iowa Blind Sales.

Fiscal 1960 was a year of reorganization and planning for the home industries department. Products were standardized; inventories were increased; and the basis for a sound operation for years to come was established.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER GROUPS

During fiscal 1960 the Commission worked closely with the State Department of Social Welfare, the County Welfare Departments, and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Public Instruction to bring about an overall co-ordinated program of services to Iowa's blind citizens. Conferences held between Commission representatives and members of the staff of the State Department of Social Welfare were especially beneficial in joining the programs of Aid to the Blind and vocational training into a total effort of rehabilitation.

The Commission worked with the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, counseling with the high school students and doing intensive planning with the seniors in connection with their vocational futures. There were frequent consultations and discussions between officials of the School and the Commission with respect to a variety of problems and needs.

Also, there was close co-ordination of effort during the past year between the PTA of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School and the Commission. The Director of the Commission attended state and local meetings of the PTA and advised and counseled with the parents. Many of the parents, on the other hand, visited the Commission and learned more of its programs.

The Iowa Association of the Blind (the state affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind) continued to work closely with the Commission. There was a friendly and beneficial exchange of ideas and suggestions. The Association, the Braille and Sight Saving School, and the Commission met frequently in an "Advisory Committee" set-up which insured the maximum of co-operation and utilization of resources.

The women of the Jewish Temple Sisterhood continued during fiscal 1960 to lead the way in transcribing material into Braille for the Blind. They worked with the Commission and the prisoners at Fort Madison, who have also been doing transcribing, to increase the supply of reading matter available to the blind. Blind college students in our state have had more Braille resource material at their command than ever before in the history of Iowa, and the blind population generally has had available an increasing supply of Braille and taped material.

Finally, no report from the Commission for the Blind would be complete without mentioning the help which has been received from the Lions Clubs of the state. The Lions (working through local clubs and through their state Iowa Lions Sight Conservation Foundation) have supplied a variety of resources to improve the conditions of the blind. In June of 1960 the Lions assumed the principal responsibility for financing the Braille transcribing project at Fort Madison. They have made a comprehensive effort to bring the Commission's program to the attention of the public. Above all, they have constantly shown their willingness to work in whatever way they could to forward the overall advancement of the blind.

The members of the Budget and Financial Control Committee of the Legislature, the Legislature as a whole, the members of the Executive Council, and the Governor have also taken leadership in the establishment and promotion of the Commission's program. With so many groups and individuals working together toward the achievement of a common goal, the future of the blind of the state looks bright. It is the belief of the Commission for the Blind that it will not be many years before Iowa has one of the truly outstanding programs in the nation--a program in which every citizen of the state can and will justly take pride. Every effort of the Commission is being exerted toward the achievement of this objective.